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DESCRIPTION

PRODUCTION PROCESS FOR LACTULOSE-CONTAINING POWDER
COMPOSITION, LACTULOSE-CONTAINING POWDER COMPOSITION
PRODUCED BY SAME, AND FEED ADDITIVE

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a process for producing a lactulose-containing powder composition, as well as a lactulose-containing powder composition produced by such a process, and a feed additive.

BACKGROUND ART

Lactulose is well known as a growth factor for *bifidobacterium*, and its effectiveness in maintaining human health is well documented. Moreover, this effectiveness is not restricted to humans, but has also been demonstrated in animal feed, meaning its use is being investigated in a wide variety of fields.

The effectiveness of lactulose in humans has been reported, for example in "The many faces of lactulose: recent research trends in development and physiological effects" (Milk Science, Vol. 50, No. 2 (2001), pp. 39 to 47), which discloses information relating to the growth activity on *bifidobacterium*. Through this activity, lactulose provides a variety of effects, including improving the environment within the intestine, improving excretion, and accelerating defecation, meaning the positive effects on human health are well known.

In addition, the effectiveness of lactulose in the field of animal feed has also been reported in "Process for producing lactulose-containing powders for livestock feed"